

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7001

By Casada

A RESOLUTION honoring the fortieth anniversary of O'More  
College of Design.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those institutions of higher education that are celebrating momentous occasion in their illustrious histories; and

WHEREAS, O'More College of Design, which is celebrating the fortieth anniversary of its founding, is one such institution wholly deserving of the recognition of this Body; and

WHEREAS, O'More's founder, Mrs. Eloise Pitts O'More, broke the barriers of gender equity by becoming a professionally trained interior designer, traveling in 1925 at the age of eighteen to study in Paris, France; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. O'More continued her education at the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City; and

WHEREAS, while traveling with her husband, Colonel Rory O'More through the 1940s, Mrs. O'More designed military officers' clubs and taught interior design courses to military wives; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Mrs. O'More moved to Franklin and quickly made her mark on the Middle Tennessee area, producing a number of notable murals, becoming involved with Franklin's cultural life, and proving to be an instrumental leader of the historic preservation movement in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Mrs. O'More realized her lifelong dream of establishing an American school with the unique creative ambiance of a French design school; and

WHEREAS, the O'More School of Design was started in Mrs. O'More's Victorian home in downtown Franklin, with a handful of students; and

WHEREAS, the school moved to its present location in 1979, where it occupies seven formerly residential acres within walking distance of downtown Franklin and incorporates two wonderful historic buildings; and

WHEREAS, by the 1980s, the school had become a college and added to its program two new bachelor's degrees: Fashion Design and Merchandising and Graphic Design and Advertising; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. O'More always felt it important to maintain contact with her students, and she continued teaching at least one class each semester until her retirement in 1994; and

WHEREAS, until her death in 2002, at the age of ninety-five, Mrs. O'More lived on campus and remained involved in the College's operations; and

WHEREAS, an institution in good standing with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, O'More College of Design now enrolls approximately 200 students, and it offers accredited Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Fashion Design, Interior Design, and Visual Communications; and

WHEREAS, the College provides educational opportunities to talented Tennessee students through various scholarships, including the HOPE scholarship; and

WHEREAS, O'More College of Design has produced thousands of distinguished designers since 1970, impacting the professional design industries in Tennessee and around the world, and it is appropriate that we honor the school upon its most recent achievement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor the fortieth anniversary of the continued successful operation and growth of O'More College of Design in Franklin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.